Leavy of fuel congestion surcharge by Private operators

2886. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that all private domestic airlines have decided to levy Fuel Congestion Surcharge on passengers on account of aircraft circling over Delhi and Mumbai airports;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take on the arbitrary decision of private airline operators imposing uncalled for surcharge on passengers;

(c) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation and other petroleum companies have decided to reduce prices of ATF on account of drop in international crude prices; and

(d) if so, whether Government would impress upon the private airlines to reduce prices *suo moto* in line with fall in international ATF prices and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) While airlines have been levying fuel surcharge for some time to offset the rise in ATF prices, it has come to the knowledge of the Government that some airlines have introduced a congestion surcharge in addition.

(b) Domestic air fares are not regulated by the Government after the repeal of Air Corporation Act, 1953. Domestic airlines are free to charge air fares as per their commercial judgement.

(c) Yes, Sir. the average domestic ATF price has declined by about 8% from Rs. 42300/ Kilolitre in October, 2006 to Rs. 38800/ Kilolitre in November, 2006.

(d) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Security Gadgets for Airports

2887. SHRI M. V MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to introduce high technology materials for effective security at all domestic international airports of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;